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Message Text

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64
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00

ERDA-05 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 XMB-02 EUR-12 /093 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:JDB
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. MAYHEW
EA/P - MR. MAGRUDER
---------- 063341
R 092003Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE -- NUCLEAR REPROCESSING

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN ON AUGUST 6.

2. QUOTE: QUESTION: HOW DOES THE US VIEW THE SOUTH
KOREAN COMMITMENT TO BUILD FRENCH-SUPPLIED NUCLEAR PLANTS?

3. ANSWER: THE EX/IM BANK HAS AUTHORIZED THE FINANCING
FOR THE FIRST TWO KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WHICH ARE
BEING PROCURED FROM US VENDORS. THE FIRST OF THESE
PLANTS IS EXPECTED TO GO INTO COMMERCIAL OPERATION
NEXT YEAR.

US SUPPLIERS OF LIGHT WATER NUCLEAR SYSTEMS COMPETE
ACTIVELY WITH COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS OF OTHER NATIONS,
INCLUDING FRANCE. WE ASSUME THAT THE AWARDS MADE TO
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FRENCH SUPPLIERS RESULT FROM ATTRACTIVE OFFERS MADE BY

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FRENCH INDUSTRY.

4. QUESTION: DOES THE PURCHASE FROM FRANCE OF NUCLEAR STATIONS RELATE TO THE INTEREST BY ROK IN ACQUIRING RE-PROCESSING CAPABILITY?

5. ANSWER:WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE KOREAN PURCHASE OF FRENCH REACTORS HAS ANY RELATIONSHIP TO FACILITIES AND/OR SERVICES IN THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE OTHER THAN THE SUPPLY OF LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FOR FUELING THESE REACTORS.

6. QUESTION: DO YOU KNOW IF THE ROK-FRENCH ARRANGE-MENT ALLOWS REPROCESSING IN SOUTH KOREA?

7. ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA CANCELLED THEIR PLANNED PURCHASE OF A FRENCH-SUPPLIED REPROCESSING PLANT EARLY THIS YEAR. END QUOTE

8. NO QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT THE AUGUST 6 NOON BRIEF-ING ON THIS SUBJECT. HABIB

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